

043A

TOURIST 9/30 NX

URGENT

MOSCOW (UPI)--SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE ARRESTED AN AMERICAN TOURIST FOR ALLEGEDLY DISTRIBUTING PROPAGANDA FOR THE U. S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND EXPELLED HIM FROM THE COUNTRY, A RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY.

THE DAILY TRUD (LABOR) IDENTIFIED THE AMERICAN AS NICHOLAS H. RIEGG, A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. IT SAID RIEGG "CONFESSIONED" TO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR DURING VISITS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN SEPTEMBER, 1964, AND AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1966.

U. S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE LOOKING INTO THE ALLEGATIONS MADE IN THE ARTICLE. THEY SAID THEY HAD NO IMMEDIATE INFORMATION ON RIEGG OR HIS ALLEGED CONFESSION AND EXPULSION, BUT CAST DOUBT ON THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE SOVIET CHARGES.

"IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY THAT IF THE SOVIETS HAD REALLY CAPTURED A MAN WHOM THEY WERE SURE WAS A CIA AGENT THAT THEY WOULD LET HIM GO JUST LIKE THAT," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

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1ST ADD TOURIST MOSCOW 043A X X X SPOKSMAN SAID.

"RIEGG HIMSELF, AFTER HIS SEIZURE, CONFESSIONED THAT HE WAS WAGING HOSTILE ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SOVIET UNION, VIOLATING SOVIET LAW, AND LIKE THE MAJORITY OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN SUBVERSION OR ESPIONAGE, MADE AN APPEAL FOR MERCY," THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

IT CARRIED THE TEXT OF RIEGG'S ALLEGED APPEAL:

"IN ADDITION THE DARK DEEDS I WAS ENGAGED IN DURING THIS TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION, MY BEHAVIOR TWO YEARS AGO, DURING MY FIRST VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, ALSO WAS CRIMINAL", RIEGG WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

"I REALIZE THAT MY DESTINY DEPENDS ONLY ON THE GENEROSITY OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE.

"I WILL FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF YOUR AUTHORITIES. I WILL EITHER LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION IMMEDIATELY OR WILL TAKE MY PUNISHMENT."

TRUD'S ARTICLE CAME AS A SOVIET PROVINCIAL PROSECUTORS OFFICE INVESTIGATED THE CASE OF ANOTHER AMERICAN, THOMAS DAWSON.

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